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SAIGON DELIVER OPENING OF BUSINESS

SUBJECT: PARIS MEETINGS ON VIET-NAM: DRV PRESS BRIEFING,
OCTOBER 9, 1969

1. CHARACTERIZING THE ALLIED PRESENTATION AS "NOTHING NEW," EVEN

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AFTER "MISROSCOPIC EXAMINATION," HE WENT ON TO TAUNT PRESIDENT NIXON FOR HIS NEW "CREDIBILITY GAP." HE CALLED AMBASSADOR LODGE'S SPEECH A "CLUMSY DEFENSE" AGAINST US PUBLIC PRESSURE, WHICH ALLEGEDLY "DEMANDS" THE TOTAL WITHDRAWAL OF US TROOPS. HE ALSO ATTACKED OUR CLAIMS AND RATIONALE FOR B-52 REDUCTIONS, AND ACCUSED PRESIDENT NIXON OF INTENSIFYING THE WAR IN LAOS. HE CHARGED THAT WE HAVE 12,000 TROOPS IN LAOS, THAT WE ARE FLYING "BOTH TACTICAL AND STRATEGIC" COMBAT MISSIONS THERE AT A DAILY RATE RANGING BETWEEN 400 AND 500, AND THAT CIA-CONTROLLED FORCES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RECENT FLARE UP OF ACTIVITY ON THE PLANE DES JARRES. IN CRITIZING THE GVN, HE QUOTED SENATOR MANSFIELD, WHO HAD CHARACTERIZED THE GVN AS THE TAIL WAGGING THE DOG." HE ALSO QUOTED SENATOR CRANSTON, WHO CALLED THE GVN "A ROTTEN DICTATORSHIP." HE ENDED HIS REMARKS WITH A REFERENCE TO THE GREEN BERET INCIDENT, SNEERING AT THE GVN FOR STANDING BY WHILE THE US KILLS ITS CITIZENS "IN RETURN FOR DOLLARS."

2. IN THE QUESTIONS AND ANSWER, HE SUGGESTED THAT THE BEST COURSE FOR THE PILOTS' FAMILIES TO PURSUE IN OBTAINING INFORMATION WOULD BE FOR THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN PEACE GROUP ACTIVITIES. QUESTIONED CLOSELY ON THIS, HE BACKED DOWN SOMEWHAT AND STATED THAT IT WOULD BE FOR THE RELATIVES TO JUDGE WHAT ACTIONS WOULD BEST SERVE THEIR PURPOSES.

3. Q: HAVE YOU MADE AVAILABLE ANY SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON THE FATE OF AMERICAN PRISONERS HELD BY YOUR GOVERNMENT? I AM REFERRING TO VISITS BY THE THREE GROUPS OF PRISONERS' WIVES WHO MET YOUR DELEGATION, AND IF SUCH INFORMATION WAS NOT AVAILABLE TO THEM, WHEN CAN THESE LADIES EXPECT TO RECEIVE THAT INFORMATION?

A: I HAVE ALREADY TOLD YOU THE REASONS FOR THE CAPTURE OF AMERICAN PILOTS. BECAUSE THE U.S. HAS BEEN WAGING A WAR OF AGGRESSION AGAINST VIET-NAM, AMERICAN MILITARY PRISONERS HAVE TO LIVE FAR AWAY FROM THEIR HOMES, AND THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN FAR AWAY FROM THEIR HUSBANDS AND THEIR FATHERS. ALTHOUGH THESE AMERICAN PILOTS HAVE COMMITTED NUMEROUS CRIMES AGAINST OUR COUNTRYMEN, ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE MASSACRED OUR PEOPLE, ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE DESTROYED NUMEROUS CIVILIAN, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL WORKS, WE HAVE GIVEN THEM HUMANITARIAN TREATMENT AFTER THEY WERE CAPTURED. THE 10-POINT OVERALL SOLUTION OF THE NLF AND THE

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PRG ALSO INCLUDES THE SETTLEMENT OF THE QUESTION OF MILITARY PERSONNEL CAPTURED DURING THE WAR. TODAY THE AMERICAN DELEGATE RAISED THE SO-CALLED PRISONER PROBLEM AND IN SO DOING HE ATTEMPTED TO CAMOUFLAGE THE CRIMES COMMITTED BY THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION AND CAMOUFLAGE THE REFUSAL BY THAT ADMINISTRATION TO PUT AN END TO THE WAR, WHICH WOULD ENABLE AMERICAN PERSONNEL CAPTURED TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES. THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAS PLAYED ON THE FEELINGS OF THE WIVES OF CAPTURED AMERICAN PILOTS TO PURSUE ITS DARK DESIGNS. IN MEETING THE AMERICAN WIVES YOU REFERRED TO WE EXPLAINED TO THEM OUR HUMANITARIAN POLICY FOR CAPTURED AMERICAN PILOTS. WE NOTED THEIR PROPOSALS AND WE TOLD THEM THAT WE WILL INFORM THEM AS SOON AS WE HAVE ANYTHING NEW. THE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM IS THAT THESE AMERICAN WOMEN JOIN THE RANKS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE STRUGGLING AGAINST THIS WAR OF AGGRESSION, THAT THEY COORDINATE THEIR ACTION WITH THE VARIOUS SEGMENTS OF THE AMERICAN POPULATION OPPOSING THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION AND ITS POLICY OF AGGRESSION IN VIET-NAM.

4. Q: I HAVE ASKED THE QUESTION FOR A SPECIFIC REASON WHICH YOU NOTED -- AND THE AMERICAN DELEGATE HIMSELF TALKED ABOUT IT. I AM SORRY TO GO BACK TO THE QUESTION AGAIN, BUT HAS SPECIFIC INFORMATION BEEN GIVEN SO FAR AND CAN YOU ESTIMATE WHEN SUCH INFORMATION WILL BE GIVEN? IF I UNDERSTAND WELL, YOU CANNOT TELL US MORE THAN YOU DID LAST WEEK.

A: I HAVE ALREADY ANSWERED YOUR QUESTION.

5. Q: IT'S POSSIBLE THAT I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE FRENCH WELL, BUT IN REFERENCE TO PRISONERS OF WAR AND AMERICAN WIVES, YOU SAID THESE WOMEN SHOULD JOIN THE RANKS OF THOSE WHO PROTEST AGAINST AMERICAN POLICY. DID I UNDERSTAND YOUR ANSWER WELL?

A: THE FACTS ARE THAT THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION PUSHED THEIR HUSBANDS INTO THE WAR AND CONSEQUENTLY INTO BEING CAPTURED. CONSEQUENTLY, IT IS THEIR PERSONAL INTEREST AND THAT OF THE U.S. FOR THEM TO STRUGGLE TO PUT AN END TO THE WAR.

6. Q: DO THEY HAVE TO STRUGGLE TO PUT AN END TO THE WAR AND IN